Shortage of LPG

† 2435. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is concern over shortage of LPG in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this type of shortage is created every year;

(c) the reasons for this shortage with the details thereof; and

(d) the details regarding supply of LPG cylinders at present in comparison to their demand, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 9394 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country during the period April, 2007-February, 2008 as against 8861 TMT during the corresponding period of 2006-07, showing a growth of 6.0%. The State-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country, due to a combination of factors *viz.,* reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Essar Oil Limited in January-February, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the country by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

OMCs have not reported any backlog in supply of LPG in the country. OMCs are monitoring the situation on a day-to-day basis and corrective action is being taken wherever required.

Tax holiday for oil refineries

(b) 2436. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

(c) Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(d) whether Government's decision to withdraw tax holiday for new refinery projects is going to hit the oil sector badly;

(e) if so. whether the absence of the existing sunset clause would have any effect on the ONGC refinery project proposal at Kakinada and Mangalore;

(f) if so, the status of the above two proposed projects;

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.